

This bulletin is a quick inventory of recent social research information. Its purpose is to promptly disseminate the most current external and internal research relevant to social policy.

Population Growth Essentially Stops Due to COVID-19 by Statistics Canada, December 2020.

Deaths from COVID-19 had a small impact on population growth in the third quarter. Out of 69,114 total deaths from July to September, 706 were from COVID-19 (according to the Public Health Agency of Canada), down from 8,495 in the second quarter. The largest demographic impact on the total population came from losses in international migration (-27,143).

- [A]ll of Canada's growth in the third quarter came from natural increase (+29,910), or the difference between births (99,024) and deaths (69,114)
- In six provinces and two territories, the population decreased for the first time since at least the third quarter of 1951
- Canada welcomed 40,069 immigrants in the third quarter of 2020 (61.4% fewer than in the third quarter of 2019), but reported a record net loss of almost 66,000 non-permanent residents

Link to the update:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/201217/dq201217b-eng.htm?CMP=mstatcan>

Generosity in Canada and the United States: The 2020 Generosity Index by Nathaniel Li, Milagros Palacios, and Jake Fuss, Fraser Institute, December 2020.

The Fraser Institute's annual Generosity Index measures this private monetary generosity using readily available data on the extent and depth of charitable donations, as recorded on personal income tax returns in Canada and the United States. As it has done in previous years, the 2020 index reveals substantial differences in generosity between the two countries.

- The general trend in recent years is that a declining percentage of Canadian tax filers are donating to charity and they are donating less as a percentage of income
- Nationwide, a higher percentage of tax filers donated to charity in Canada (19.4%) than in the United States (9.7%) in 2018. Conversely, Canadians (at 0.54%) gave a lower percentage of their aggregate income to charity than did Americans (at 1.97%)
- The percentage of aggregate income donated was generally less in the Canadian provinces and territories than in the US states. All US states, with the exception of West Virginia, gave a higher percentage of aggregate income to charity than any Canadian province or territory

Link to the full paper:

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/generosity-index-2020.pdf>

Considerations for Permanent Housing: Ideas and Perspectives of Women and Gender-diverse People Experiencing Complex Homelessness by Mary Vaccaro and Jennifer Craig, Homeless Hub, 2020.

The [in]visible project is a community-based research project, focusing on women and gender-diverse people, without children in their care, who have been homeless for a long time, in Hamilton, Ontario. The intention of this report is to highlight the ideas, perspectives and preferences that women and gender-diverse people experiencing long periods of homelessness have relating to potential housing solutions.

- We learned that almost half (48% of participants) experienced homelessness for their first time before the age of 18.
- Many of our participants shared living foster care, or group home setting at some point during their childhood or youth (38%)
- We found that 34% of participants had experienced four or more years of homelessness and housing instability

Link to the full report:

<https://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/Mary-Vaccaro-Considerations-for-Permanent-Housing-Ideas-and-perspectives-of-women-and-gender-diverse-people-experiencing-complex-homelessness.pdf>

The Experiences and Needs of Older Caregivers in Canada by Paula Arriagada, Statistics Canada, November 2020.

In this study, older caregivers are people aged 65 and older who reported that, in the previous 12 months, they had either (a) cared for or helped someone who had a long-term health condition or a physical or mental disability, or (b) cared for or helped someone who had problems related to aging.

- In 2018, almost one-quarter of seniors aged 65 and older (about 1.5 million people) provided care or help to family members or friends with a long-term condition, a physical or mental disability, or problems related to aging
- Although senior men were as likely as senior women to engage in caregiving, caregiving activities were still divided by sex. Among older caregivers, 56% of women did household work activities such as meal preparation, house cleaning or laundry, versus 47% of men. Senior men were more likely to provide help with house maintenance and outdoor work (47% versus 29%)
- One-third (34%) of all caregivers aged 65 and older provided care for a spouse or partner. This proportion increased to 47% when focusing on seniors aged 75 and older, and to 50% for those aged 85 and older

Link to the full report:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/en/pub/75-006-x/2020001/article/00007-eng.pdf?st=LF3eZRhw>

Canada's Black Population: Education Labour and Resilience by Statistics Canada, 2020.

This booklet first looks at the education characteristics of the Black population, which are associated with several other aspects of their socioeconomic situation. An analysis of the highest level of educational attainment was disaggregated by sex and immigrant status, followed by data on the educational expectations as aspirations of young Black individuals.

- The immigrant population is generally more likely to have a bachelor's degree or higher than the non-immigrant population. It was the opposite for Black women.
- In 2016, 25% of Black immigrant women had a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 31% of Black non-immigrant women
- In 2016, the employment rate was 78.1% for Black men and 71.0% for Black women, compared with 82.6% and 75.5%, respectively, for their counterparts in the rest of the population
- While median annual wages increased in the general population from 2000 to 2015, it remained relatively stable for Black men, at approximately \$40,000

Link to the information pamphlet:

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/89-657-x/89-657-x2020002-eng.pdf>

Economic Freedom of the World: 2020 Annual Report by James Gwartney, Robert Lawson, Joshua Hall etc., Fraser Institute, 2020.

The index published in Economic Freedom of the World measures the degree to which the policies and institutions of countries are supportive of economic freedom. The cornerstones of economic freedom are personal choice, voluntary exchange, freedom to enter markets and compete, and security of the person and privately owned property.

- Nations in the top quartile of economic freedom had an average per-capita GDP of \$44,198 in 2018, compared to \$5,754 for nations in the bottom quartile
- In the top quartile, the average income of the poorest 10% was \$12,293, compared to \$1,558 in the bottom quartile
- In the top quartile, 1.7% of the population experience extreme poverty (US\$1.90 a day) compared to 31.5% in the lowest quartile

Link to the full report:

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/economic-freedom-of-the-world-2020.pdf>

Previous issues of the SPAR Monitor can be viewed online at: <https://bit.ly/3h42Zob>

Wellbeing Toronto: www.toronto.ca/wellbeing

City of Toronto Data, Research & Maps: <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/data-research-maps/>